Agenda Date: 12/18/02 Agenda Item: 7A



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Board of Public Utilities Two Gateway Center Newark, NJ 07102 www.bpu.state.nj.us

Customer Assistance

I/M/O the Verified Petition of)	ORDER APPROVING
Jersey Central Power and Light Company)	PETITION
for Approval of the Relocation of Its)	
Toms River Business Office	BPU Docket No. EE02100778

(SERVICE LIST ATTACHED)

BY THE BOARD:

On October 21, 2002, Jersey Central Power & Light Company (Petitioner) filed a petition with the Board of Public Utilities (Board) to relocate its Toms River business office from the Holiday Plaza III Shopping Center, 600 Mule Road, to 25 Adafre Avenue, also in Toms River. On December 5, 2002, the Division of the Ratepayer Advocate filed comments in this matter.

According to the Petitioner, no interested parties or customers have opposed the relocation. Furthermore, Board Staff has found that the proposed new location is more easily accessible by private and mass transportation than the current location, has more parking than the current location, and is located near the United Water Toms River office, giving customers the ability to make one trip to pay electric and water bills.

The Petitioner claims that by using the new location, it would save \$8,000 per month in expenses currently included in rates. The Ratepayer Advocate states that the Petitioner has not provided information sufficient to support this claim, and that therefore it is not clear that the relocation represents the most cost-effective alternative for the Petitioner and its ratepayers.

Nevertheless, the Ratepayer Advocate does not oppose the petition, provided that the Petitioner maintains the same hours of operation, staffing levels, and level of service as at the Holiday Plaza site. Furthermore, the Ratepayer Advocate recommends that the cost and rate impacts of the relocation be addressed in the Petitioner's pending base rate proceeding.

The Board <u>HEREBY APPROVES</u> the petition and authorizes Petitioner to relocate its Toms River business office. The Board <u>HEREBY ORDERS</u> the Petitioner to maintain the same hours of operation, staffing levels, and level of service as are currently provided at the Petitioner's Holiday III Plaza Shopping Center site.

This Order shall not be construed as directly or indirectly fixing for any purposes whatsoever any value of any tangible or intangible assets now owned or hereafter to be owned by the Petitioner.

This Order shall not affect, nor in any way limit, the exercise of the authority of this Board or of this State in any future Petition or in any proceedings with respect to rates, franchises, service, financing, accounting, capitalization, depreciation, or in any other matter affecting the Petitioner.

DATED: 12/19/02 BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

BY:

SIGNED

JEANNE M. FOX PRESIDENT

SIGNED

FREDERICK F. BUTLER COMMISSIONER

SIGNED

CAROL J. MURPHY COMMISSIONER

SIGNED

CONNIE O. HUGHES COMMISSIONER

SIGNED

JACK ALTER COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

SIGNED

KRISTI IZZO SECRETARY

I/M/O the Verified Petition of Jersey Central Power & Light Company for Approval of the Relocation of Its Toms River Business Office

BPU Dkt. No. EE02100778

SERVICE LIST

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